



Whitney Dotson leads a field workshop at Pt. Pinole in North Richmond.

Award Amount
\$496,122

Watershed
Multiple Bay Area Watersheds

County
Alameda and Contra Costa Counties

CALFED Region
Bay Region

Legislative Districts
US Congress: 7, 9, and 13
State Assembly: 14, 16, and 18
State Senate: 9

Purpose

Improve awareness of, and capacity for, local watershed stewardship and management within the northeast San Francisco Bay area.

Project Goals

- Develop databases and conduct watershed forum discussions on policy, science, education, and participation.
- Create a watershed center and subset of riparian centers.
- Build watershed group organizational capacity.
- Include underrepresented communities in watershed planning.
- Develop a field program in watershed awareness and organization, monitoring, project implementation, fire, and watershed vegetation management.

Benefits to the CALFED Program

Alameda County is located in the primarily urban San Francisco Bay Area, for which the Water Use Efficiency Program has identified objectives for improved water supply. One of the goals of the regional watershed center program is to educate citizens about landscaping with native species to reduce urban landscape irrigation demand. This program builds a durable, self-sustaining infrastructure that combines technical assistance, collaboration, monitoring, adaptive management, outreach and education, and funding assistance to build the capacity of local watershed groups. The regional watershed center concept facilitates a flow of information between neighboring watershed groups, local stakeholders, and the CALFED Program, ultimately increasing the scale and effectiveness of local watershed projects.

Project Overview

This 3-year capacity-building program creates an accessible prototype watershed center that lays the groundwork for expansion into a network of locally led watershed centers throughout the state. This prototype serves Alameda County, a part of the CALFED Program Solution Area. The goal of this project is to improve the awareness of, and capacity for, local watershed stewardship and management by citizen groups, schools, planners, landowners, businesses, and elected officials. These groups already execute or oversee many small projects that cumulatively affect streamflow, water quality, habitat, and human use benefits.

This network of locally led watershed centers is designed to fill a gap between regional resources and local needs and to increase communication among neighboring watersheds' groups. The prototype watershed center builds on the well-developed experience of several partner organizations with field programs, outreach, technical skills, and websites. The watershed center makes it possible for fragmented local watershed groups to better connect for a healthier, more stable, and cleaner watershed ecosystem with increased communication. Groups benefit from connection to new and existing regional, state, and federal watershed resources from varying locations and in various formats. Watershed centers modeled on this prototype will aid with collaborative funding efforts that will enhance long-term sustainability. Support for infrastructure connections will increase the scale and effectiveness of local individual watershed projects.

The strategy is to include underrepresented communities in watershed planning and outreach and conduct science-based watershed assessment through these tasks. Learning to assess and plan within these urban watersheds provides a large population with direct experience of watershed values and of the impacts of various planning alternatives.



A breakout group discusses citizen involvement at an East Bay Watershed Forum meeting at the Oakland City Hall.

Contact Information

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